



Fredericton Botanic Garden Association Newsletter

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Fall 2009

Garden Memorials

By the time you read this the magnolia, Japanese maple Memorial Grove will have been completed. The magnolias and maples were all planted last fall and survived the winter very well. By next spring there should be a lovely show of blooms. The memorial boulder has been installed with the first names engraved upon it. There are two beautiful benches in this garden. It is a delightful, wonderfully peaceful place to sit and appreciate the plants.



The memorial benches in the Entrance Garden have all been named. As a result six new benches have been placed in the garden and are now available for memorializing. These benches are a beautiful maroon colour identical to the benches in the Entrance Garden. One has been placed in the new upper perennial bed immediately downhill from the Entrance Garden and a second has been placed at the Valley Ecosystem kiosk with a beautiful view over the river valley. As mentioned two benches have been placed in the Memorial Grove, another bench has been placed in the Rhododendron Garden and the final bench has been placed in Hal's Garden with a view of the pond.

**To receive a paper copy of the Newsletters,
please contact the office at fbga@nb.aibn.com
or 452-9269**



These new benches may be memorialized in the name of a friend or loved one by making a donation of \$4000.00 to the Botanic Garden. Loved ones may also be remembered by having their name engraved on the boulder in the Memorial Grove for a donation of \$500.00. Please remember these donations are tax deductible as the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association has a Federal Government charitable number. For further information on memorials please contact the Botanic Garden office at 506 452-9269 or by email at fbga@nb.aibn.com

Bill Seabrook
Board member

Join us on Facebook

facebook

The Fredericton Botanic Garden now has a Facebook page. If you're one of the one in three Canadians on Facebook, you can join the FBGA group page by entering "Fredericton Botanic Garden" in the Search bar on Facebook, and then selecting "Join this group." We'll have announcements about events and pictures of the garden. There's also a discussion page for messages.

Hope to see you there!



2009 Treasured Garden Tour Report

Committee members: Valerie Hillier, Nancy Beltrandi, Rose Burke, Ian Veach, Carole Peacock and Pat Mason.

Overall the 2009 Treasured Garden Tour was a success. Attendance numbers exceeded our expectations and were probably due in part to great weather after a long stretch of rain and cold weather.

Highlights:

Marketing for the event started earlier than it did last year and was broader in scope including the annual full page section in the Daily Gleaner; an interview on the weekly radio garden show which airs in Nova Scotia called "The Weekend Gardener"; widespread poster distribution in Fredericton, Ormococto and online; a message on the Firestone board on the corner of Westmorland St. and Brunswick St.; and public services announcements on several radio stations.

Decorations:

Pat Mason put together a sub-committee which did an excellent job on the decorations. Many of them were hand-made. Scott's Nursery also loaned us quite a number of shrubs to hide the poles and provide a lovely entrance display.

Food:

In the past food has been donated by committee members, however, this year food was purchased from a licensed caterer which was much less taxing on our volunteers. Sandwiches came from Edwina's Catering and sweets from Sobeys. Punch was still donated by members and was a hit – thanks to Eleanor Methven for taking a lead on this on the day of the event.

Suggestions for 2010 event

- The committee strongly feels we should try to have the event on a Sunday to see how it goes. This would make it the second Sunday of July.
- A larger tent which can house the food and punch tables, the membership table, the musician and the event-goers.
- More tour guides for our garden
- Less food, less punch and smaller portions of sweets (2-bite sweets rather than large squares)
- More food servers needed

The only suggestions in the area of marketing are: to send the dates off to the gardening magazines early (even as early as January) for both the Plant Sale and Treasured Garden Tour; and to get the article in the Daily Gleaner printed a couple of days earlier if possible.

Final remarks

Feedback from the event was very positive and the committee did excellent work. I feel we have a strong event that will continue to attract garden lovers for several years to come.

In closing, a big thank you to Rose, Nancy, Ian, Pat, Carole and Avis, as well as Eleanor, Linda, Carole, Richard, Yolande, Jim, Clint, Lucy, Gordon, Bill, Jacques, Norah and anyone else

I may have forgotten who helped out before or during the event.

Valerie Hillier
Chair, Treasured Garden Tour committee

Membership

The Committee runs a membership booth and sells the Association's T-shirts, aprons and other small items at major FBGA events such as the Plant Sale and the Treasured Garden Tour. We welcomed new members at both of these events this year.

The Membership Committee would like to invite all members to join us in our efforts to recruit and retain members for the Association. Membership brochures are available at the Resource Centre. We would greatly appreciate it if you would be able to distribute some to friends and neighbours. Also please consider giving a membership to a friend as a gift - they are very reasonably priced, and provide the benefit of a 10% discount at many local garden outlets. Remember to ask for your discount before a sale has been rung up. As Christmas nears, consider that a membership would be a great stocking stuffer! Our green T-shirts - a real bargain at just \$15.00 - or one of the useful aprons for \$20.00. They would make great gifts, too!

An application form (and information) can be found on our web site www.frederictonbotanicgarden.com for either new or renewing memberships.

Lucy Dyer
Chair, Membership committee

The Fredericton Botanic Garden Newsletter is published four times a year by the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association, Inc. The FBGA is a registered charitable organization for tax purposes.

The objectives of the FBGA are to guide the establishment of the Fredericton Botanic Garden and to foster an awareness and appreciation of plants.

To obtain information on membership and to become involved in FBGA activities please contact us:

506-452-9269

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Site Development Report

The extensive perennial plantings below the Entrance Garden have looked better every month through the season. They include many common plants but also some unusual ones such as the ornamental rhubarb (*Rheum palmatum*). Most of this bed was planted in 2008 but early this July seven FBGA volunteers, working under the guidance of Brian Parker, spent an evening planting additional material. On your next visit to the Garden note the fall colours in grasses in this planting.



A large granite boulder to record memorial donations (see article on Memorials) was installed in the Memorial Grove in mid July. Most of the magnolias in this Grove have been there two years and are becoming nicely established. Several bloomed last June and should be worth watching early next summer.

Work on the Rose Garden has been limited by budget resources to the addition of further fill and grading to bring the entire site to sub-grade specifications.

The Garden has been well managed all season by City horticultural technician Jamie Adamson and students Dominique Miles, Amanda ----, and Matt McNeill. Their efforts are much appreciated.

Richard Tarn,
Chair, Site Development Committee

Membership Privileges include:

Newsletters and advance notice by email of all events
10 % discount at:

Capital Landscape and City Designers, Co-op Country Store (Northside), Corn Hill Nursery, Currie's Greenhouses, Green Village, Kent Garden Centre, Scott's Nursery, Wetmore's Landscaping, Sod and Nursery



Wonderful Coneflowers

When we feel a cold coming on, many of us take Echinacea tablets. But did you know that the active ingredient in these cold tablets comes from a colourful plant that is native to the Canadian prairies, the Purple Coneflower?



Echinaceae (Purple Coneflower) 'Harvest Moon' and 'Sundown' in the Seabrook's Garden

Coneflowers have a raised brown, bronze or black cone in the centre of the flower, while the petals surrounding the cone come in yellow, white and bright pink. Modern breeding and selection from tissue culture have produced orange, pale yellow varieties as well as double forms that look like they come from science fiction. The generic name *Echinacea* comes from the Greek (Echinos) for a hedgehog (A European rodent like mammal with a spiky coat), a reference to the spiky central cone of the coneflower.

A close relative of Purple Coneflower, *Ratibida* is a tall (5-6 ft), rangy plant in our garden, but its thin, yellow floppy petals make an interesting highlight. *Echinacea* is also closely related to *Rudbeckia*, the Black Eyed Susan.



Black Eyed Susan with Purple Coneflower in the background at the E. John Bliss Water Treatment Plant



The new E. John Bliss Water Treatment plant on Waterloo Row has a beautiful mass of bright yellow Black Eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia*) and pink Purple Coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*) on the berm facing Forest Hill Road. The City of Frederickton has done a lovely job with these plantings.



Black Eyed Susan from the Seabrook's garden

In our climate, the perennial coneflowers sold in nurseries like a moist well-drained soil and full sun. Even though books list coneflowers as prairie plants liking dry conditions, the wild plants I have seen on the great plains grow around coulees and river banks. Many of the new coneflowers are fragrant. Have a sniff the next time you pass a flower bed with coneflowers.



Purple Coneflower at the Water Treatment Plant

The Chicago Botanic Garden has recently released several new colours of coneflowers. The most striking is Orange Med-dowbright. Have you noticed some of the new bronze forms in local gardens?



Purple Coneflower at the Water Treatment Plant

Our local nurseries often carry 'Double Delight', 'Harvest Moon', 'Double Decker' 'Sunrise', 'Sundown' and other new coneflowers. My favourite plant catalogue, Gardenimport (www.gardenimport.com/) had some wonderful new coneflowers in their 2009 Spring catalogue. Have a look at these new plants and splurge!



Flower bed at the Water Treatment Plant

Thanks to Bill Seabrook for the lovely photos.
Jane Seabrook

Thank you to Jane Tarn for her expertise in editing the newsletters.

